New 20-Point Economic Programme

3828. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :

SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Delhi Financial Corporation under the new 20-Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister to generate more employment has liberalised its loan policy for transport industry by reducing margin money and by waiving collateral security or third party guarantee upto Rs. 10 lakhs for purchasing of trucks, mini trucks, buses, tourist coaches, taxies; contract carries, etc.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Corporation has increased the repayment period including initial moratorium period of two years ; and

(c) whether other financial activities of the Delhi Financial Corporation has also been liberalised under the above programme, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Delhi Financial Corporation has reported that small Road Transport Operators scheme meant primarily for generating self employment has been in existence in the Corporation since 1986. The loans are sanctioned subject to third party guarantee/collateral security. The Corporation has also reported that it allows moratorium period upto 2 years and repayment period is between 5—12 years depending on the merits of the case. In the financial year 1987-88, a scheme for self Employment of Ex-servicemen (SEMFEX) was launched for rehabilitating the ex-servicemen including widos. Under the scheme at 10% promoter's contributions, the loans are sanctioned to ex-servicemen for projects upto Rs. 12 lakhs. DFC has also introduced one window scheme from 26-5-1988 for shall eligible entrepreneurs who are sanctioned assistance as per prescribed terms, both for term loan as well as working capital for projects upto Rs. 7.5 lakhs each (inclusive of working capital upto Rs. 2.5 lakhs)

Rise in Prices of Gold and Silver

3829. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of gold and silver have again gone high in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to import gold and silver from foreign countries to meet the demand of gold and silver;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the estimated demand for gold and silver in the country at present and also its production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The domestic price of gold showed a rising trend during 1987 and it reached peak levels in November, 1987. Thereafter the prices have generally shown a declining trend. Similarly for silver, as against the rising trend noticed during 1987 and upto February, 1988, the prices have fallen moderately in the recent months.

(b) and (c) Gold and Silver are not essential commodities and they are possessed by a small minority in society and their possession does not contribute to the economic development of the country. Government therefore has not found it necessary to import gold and silver, committing scare foreign exchange, to meet the domestic demand or to take any other special steps to regulate the prices of these metals.

(d) Government has not made any estimate of the total demand of gold and silver in the country. According to available information, however, the domestic